

Dynamic Catalog for On-Line Offering and Bid System

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A three phase, dynamic catalog generation process for creating, updating, and accessing available item descriptive information catalogs for use in conjunction with online auctions, business-to-business offering systems and retail sales. One or more databases are loaded with current descriptive information about items which may be made available for bidding or purchase, such as item part numbers, descriptions, specifications, photographs or illustrations, prices and quantities. This descriptive information is dynamically linked to a product part number. Second, each time a trader requests current descriptive information about an available part number, the databases containing descriptive information are dynamically synchronized so as to link to the most recently available information, thereby providing the trader with the most current descriptive information automatically. If the trader decides to formalize the offer, the information is copied into an offer database, thereby "capturing" the current descriptive information for the offer.